

PROPOSITION 18 – “PRO” BALLOT ARGUMENT

CALIFORNIA'S WATER SYSTEM IS CRUMBLING, OUTDATED, AND AT RISK OF COLLAPSE.

California's water system is straining to meet the needs of residents, farms, businesses and the environment. Designed 50 years ago to serve 16 million residents, our water infrastructure now serves more than 38 million.

Scientists and water agencies warn that our outdated water system is responsible for:

- Severe water shortages
- Contaminated water supplies
- Water cutbacks to family farms that threaten food supplies
- Damage to our environment and wildlife
- Higher water rates
- Lost farm jobs and other stalled economic growth

YES on 18: A BALANCED APPROACH TO FIX OUR WATER SYSTEM. PROP 18 WILL . . .

. . . fix outdated pipes and infrastructure.

Levees and waterways that deliver our drinking water have not been updated in more than 30 years. Engineers say leaky pipes are responsible for the loss of 220 million gallons of drinking water per day. Prop 18 will fix key infrastructure, enhance local supplies, and increase our ability to store water in an environmentally-sound manner so it's available when and where we need it.

. . . ensure reliable water for farms.

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

Water shortages have forced many family farmers to stop planting, leading to thousands of lost farming jobs. Prop 18 gives farmers the water they need to grow and sell food at affordable prices.

... clean up contamination of water sources.

More than 60% of rivers and streams tested in California fail to meet federal clean water standards. Prop 18 funds emergency actions to clean up water contamination in at-risk areas, and remove pollutants from rivers, lakes and streams that end up as drinking water.

... protect against the collapse of our water system in an earthquake.

Scientists warn that aging levees transporting two-thirds of the state's drinking water could collapse during an earthquake, cutting off supplies for 25 million for up to two years. Prop 18 will strengthen waterways and better protect supplies against an earthquake or major flood.

... repair the Delta, the most vulnerable point in our water system.

As it flows down from the Sierras, water for 25 million Californians flows through the California Delta. But Delta levees that protect and deliver our drinking water are crumbling and could collapse. The environment in the Delta is also in crisis. Prop 18 will provide funds for urgently needed habitat restoration in the Delta and to fix California's outdated water delivery system.

... create jobs now fixing vital infrastructure.

Prop 18 funds tens of thousands of jobs on shovel-ready construction projects across California – fixing and strengthening the network of levees, pipes and reservoirs.

... protect taxpayers with strong fiscal safeguards

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Prop 18 is funded through existing revenues and will NOT increase taxes. Prop 18 limits administrative costs to less than 5% and requires annual, independent public audits.

WATER IS ESSENTIAL – WE MUST ACT TO PROTECT OUR ECONOMY and QUALITY OF LIFE.

Prop 18 is the solution we need to address the major problems facing our water system and environment while providing safe, reliable water for California.

VOTE YES on 18.

www.WaterforCA.com

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